Applicant : André M. E. Nel
Serial No. : 09/930,640
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Attorney's Docket No.: 10001090-1
Amendment dated Nov. 1, 2005
Reply to Office action dated Aug. 1, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of allocating freight haulage jobs, comprising:

receiving from one or more users respective capacity attributes, including position information, route information and excess capacity information specifying available freight-hauling capacity, for each ofmobile carrier entity in a set of freight-hauling mobile carrier entities;

computing a projection of available carrier capacity based upon the received mobile carrier capacity attributes; and

identifying one or more freight haulage job candidates from the set of mobile carrier entities based upon the computed projection of available carrier capacity and shipping attributes for each of a set of freight haulage jobs.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein computing the projection of available carrier capacity comprises estimating future positions of one or more of the mobile carrier entities.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein future positions of one or more of the mobile carrier entities are estimated at one or more times within pickup time windows specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein future positions of one or more of the mobile carrier entities are estimated based at least in part upon current transport condition information.

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Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the freight haulage job candidates are identified based at least in part upon the proximity of the estimated mobile carrier entity positions to pickup locations specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the received excess capacity information includes amount of available capacity and mode of transport.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the freight haulage job candidates are identified based at least in part upon a comparison of the received excess capacity information and an amount of needed capacity and mode of transport specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising computing an amount of capacity available on a given mobile carrier entity based upon excess capacity information received from the given mobile carrier entity.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the excess capacity information received from the given mobile carrier entity includes maximum volume information and maximum weight haulable by the given mobile carrier entity and volume information and weight for each item of freight being hauled by the given mobile carrier entity.

Claim 10 (original): A computer program for allocating freight haulage jobs, the computer program residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to:

receive from one or more users respective capacity attributes, including position information, route information and excess capacity information specifying available freight-hauling capacity, for each of mobile carrier entity in a set of freight-hauling mobile carrier entities;

compute a projection of available carrier capacity based upon the received mobile carrier capacity attributes; and

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identify one or more freight haulage job candidates from the set of mobile carrier entities based upon the computed projection of available carrier capacity and shipping attributes for each of a set of freight haulage jobs.

Claim 11 (original): The computer program of claim 10, wherein computing the projection of available carrier capacity comprises estimating future positions of one or more of the mobile carrier entities.

Claim 12 (original): The computer program of claim 11, wherein future positions of one or more of the mobile carrier entities are estimated at one or more times within pickup time windows specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

Claim 13 (original): The computer program of claim 12, wherein the freight haulage job candidates are identified based at least in part upon the proximity of the estimated mobile carrier entity positions to pickup locations specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

Claim 14 (original): The computer program of claim 10, wherein the received excess capacity information includes amount of available capacity and mode of transport.

Claim 15 (original): The computer program of claim 14, wherein the freight haulage job candidates are identified based at least in part upon a comparison of the received excess capacity information and an amount of needed capacity and mode of transport specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

Claim 16 (original): The computer program of claim 10, further comprising computing an amount of capacity available on a given mobile carrier entity based upon excess capacity information received from the given mobile carrier entity.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer program of claim 16, wherein the excess capacity information received from the given mobile carrier entity includes maximum volume information and maximum weight haulable by the given mobile carrier entity and

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volume information and weight for each item of freight being hauled by the given mobile carrier entity.

Claim 18 (original): A portable device, comprising:

a memory;

a wireless transceiver;

a positioner operable to compute position information;

a scanner operable to direct a light beam at a symbol and to recover information embedded in the symbol based upon detected reflections from the symbol; and

a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver, the positioner, and the scanner and operable to obtain from the scanner capacity attributes, including position information, route information and excess capacity information, for a mobile carrier entity and to control wireless transmission of the capacity attributes through the wireless transceiver in accordance with a mobile wireless communication protocol.

Claim 19 (original): The portable device of claim 18, wherein the positioner comprises a GPS receiver.

Claim 20 (original): The portable device of claim 18, wherein the controller is operable to compute excess capacity information from scanned information relating to maximum volume information and maximum weight haulable by a given mobile carrier entity and volume information and weight for each item of freight being hauled by the given mobile carrier entity.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises promtping the one or more users to enter the respective capacity attributes.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting one of the identified freight haulage job candidates to perform a particular one of the freight haulage jobs.

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Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 22, further comprising receiving haulage rates from the identified freight haulage job candidates, wherein the selecting is based at least in part on the received haulage rates.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the excess capacity information is expressed in terms of volume and weight available on respective ones of the mobile carrier entities.